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National Conference Extends Agriculture into the Nation's Schools

Sharlet Teigen, AITC Conference
Planning Committee

Educators from around the United States will gather in Oklahoma City, OK on May 19-22, 1999 for hands-on training. Instead of learning new theories about teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, they will learn how to incorporate agriculture into their everyday lessons.

The 1999 National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Conference will feature workshops, roundtables, a recognition luncheon for outstanding educators, exhibits from ag-related companies and education organizations, and a "Make and Take" fair. While in Oklahoma City, conference attendees

will experience special events, including the Cowboy Hall of Fame and the 14th Annual Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Range Roundup.

Workshops will be hands-on sessions. Topics will include chick embryology, entomology, soil sciences and teacher-friendly presentations. Two traveling workshops will take educators to the Myriad Botanical Gardens, Ft. Reno Grazing Lands Research Lab, and the El Reno Federal Prison Farm. This 4,000 acre farm and dairy provides food to 20 other prisons.

USDA's Ag in the Classroom and Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom will co-sponsor this year's conference. For up-to-date conference information, go to the AITC web site at <http://www.reeusda.gov/serd/hep/agclass.htm>, or contact the USDA national AITC office at 202-720-7925. Pre-registration deadline is May 1.

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Ag in the Classroom is staffed in Higher Education Programs within the Science and Education Resources Development division of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

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Subscriptions to Ag
in the Classroom
Notes are available to
the public at no
charge.

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1999 National Ag In The Classroom Conference

Blazing Trails to the 21st Century

May 19-22, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, May 19

Registration Opens (8:00 a.m.)

Exhibits Open (3:00 p.m.)

Newcomers Meeting (3:00 p.m.)

State Contacts Meeting (4:00 p.m.)

Round Table Sessions

(20 minute sessions on a variety of topics)

Make and Take Fair

Regional Meetings

Buses leave (5:00 p.m.)

Banquet and Tour at the World
Renowned Cowboy Hall Of Fame.



*Hands on
Activities from
the Prairie*



*Creepy, Crawly, Critters
Ideas for Teaching with Bugs*

Welcome to Oklahoma
Buffet Dinner and Mixer



*Quick & Dirty
Soil Science*

Thursday, May 20

Breakfast/General Session (7:00
a.m.)

Concurrent Workshops

Teacher Recognition Luncheon

Friday, May 21

Breakfast (7:00 a.m.)

Buses leave for Traveling Work-
shops. We will blaze a trail through
Oklahoma and experience hands-on
activities you can share with
teacher and students.

Lunch at Express Ranch

Return to Hotel (3:00 p.m.)

5:00 p.m. Buses leave for the
fabulous Lazy E Arena where we
will be the guests of the Oklahoma
Cattlemen's Association for dinner
and the annual Cattlemen's Range
Roundup.

Saturday, May 22

Breakfast/Closing Session (7:00
a.m.)

Meeting of Ag In The Classroom
Consortium (11:00 a.m.)

Post Conference Tour for those
that choose to attend. (1:30 p.m.)

*We'll See Y'all
There!*



*Kick-up your Heels at the
Oklahoma Range Roundup*

Blazing Trails to the 21st Century

May 19-22, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Conference Particulars

Obtaining Up-to-Date Information

<http://www.reeusda.gov/serd/hep/agclass.htm>

Making Reservations

- Please fill out the registration form and get it to us as soon as possible.
- Hurry to make your hotel reservations with the Oklahoma City (OKC) Marriott Hotel on NW Expressway by calling 1-800-831-4004 or 405-842-6633. The room rate is \$94 plus 10.38% sales tax for a single or double room. A limited number of rooms have been blocked for May 18, 19, and 20. You must make hotel reservations by **May 1**. Be sure to tell the Marriott that you're with the Ag in the Classroom conference.

Getting to the Conference

- Shuttle service is available from the airport to the Marriott (the OKC Marriott does not have its own shuttle service). There are several airport shuttles that operate from Will Rogers World Airport. Most fares are approximately \$11.
- If you are driving from Will Rogers World Airport, go north on Meridian Ave. to Airport Rd.; exit right to I-44. Take left exit (northbound) I-44 to the Highway 3-A Exit. Right exit to NW Expressway, turn right. Travel approximately 15-20 minutes.

Exhibits

- Cost for commercial exhibit space is \$295. This includes registration for one person. You will receive one 6-foot table and 2 chairs. Additional spaces are available for \$100 each. (Use #2 on registration form to reserve a space.)
- There is no charge for state exhibits, but states **MUST** register to reserve a space (See #2 on the registration form.)
- Setup hours: May 19, 6 am-3 pm. All exhibits must be in place by 3 pm.
- Exhibit hours: May 19, 3 pm-6 pm; May 20, 9 am-5:30 pm. Security will be provided through 6:30 pm May 20.

- Tear-down: You may begin to tear exhibits down any time after 5:30 pm, May 20. All commercial exhibits must be down by 8 am Friday morning. To encourage participation, we have scheduled breaks in the exhibit area.
- If you need electricity mark the appropriate box on the registration form. Costs will be determined by the amps used. These arrangements and charges will be handled directly by the hotel. An order form will be sent to you with more information. Phone lines for computers are also available by request.
- Return shipping will be arranged by the hotel. A representative will contact you during the show.
- Materials should arrive at the hotel no earlier than May 12. Ship to Oklahoma City Marriott, 3233 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112. Mark your packages "HOLD FOR ARRIVAL; AG IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE EXHIBIT MATERIALS". Make sure your name and your organization's name are included on your label.

Planning for Special Events

- Guests are welcome to join us at the Cowboy Hall of Fame for a lovely evening of entertainment, time in the museum and banquet. Guests must register in advance. See registration form. Guests are also welcome to join us at the Range Roundup and dinner. Additional tickets for this event are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis for those registering after May 1.

Post-Conference Tour

- You are welcome to join us for a post-conference tour, departing from the hotel Saturday May 22 at 1:30 pm. We will visit the Ft. Sill Museum, where the famous warrior Geronimo is buried, drive through the beautiful Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge where you will see buffalo and longhorn cattle and have dinner at the historical Meers Store. Post-conference registration includes transportation, a box lunch and admission to the museum. You will be responsible for your evening meal.

Blazing Trails to the Twenty-First Century 1999 Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference

Registration Form

(Please print all information.)

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ FAX _____ email _____

Affiliation (Choose all that apply)

____ AITC State Contact

____ Educator

____ AITC Board Member

____ Principal/Administrator

____ University or College

____ Education Board Member

____ Volunteer

____ Federal/State Government

____ Commodity or Ag Group Please

specify: _____

____ Other: _____

Full Registration

1 Full registration (includes entire conference)
 ____ \$195 (By May 1)
 ____ \$225 (After May 1)

Guests for special events:

Cowboy Hall of Fame Banquet:

\$ ____ (Total of # ____ X \$30)

Guest's Names: _____

Range Roundup and dinner:

\$ ____ (Total of # ____ X \$40)

Guest's Names: _____

Exhibits (See Exhibit Particulars)

2 \$ ____ Commercial Exhibit: \$295
 \$ ____ Additional exhibit space \$100 each
 # ____ Additional spaces requested
 \$ ____ State exhibit
 (no cost but advanced registration is required.)
 Will you need electricity? Yes: ____ No: ____

Post Conference Tour

3 This cost is not included in the registration cost and must be filled out to attend. Guests are welcome to attend.
 \$ ____ (Total of # ____ X \$30)

Registration by the Day

(For persons NOT attending full conference)

Wednesday:

____ \$25 (Evening session and meal)

Thursday:

____ \$100 (All meals and events)

Guests for Thursday special events:

Cowboy Hall of Fame Banquet:

\$ ____ (Total of # ____ X \$30)

Guest's Names: _____

Friday:

____ \$125 (All meals and events)

Guests for special events

Range Roundup and dinner:

\$ ____ (Total of # ____ X \$40)

Guest's Names: _____

Saturday:

____ \$20 (Closing session and breakfast)

____ Total for Post Conference Tour: (# ____ X \$30)

\$ ____ Total of section 4

Payment Options

You may pay by check or credit card. Make sure you fill in totals on the appropriate lines.

Make checks payable to **Oklahoma State University.**

5 \$ ____ TOTAL

If Paying by credit card circle which card: Visa or Master Card

Card Holder Name _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

(Must sign here if using credit card)

Mail with check or FAX with credit card information to:

Ag in the Classroom Conference
430 Student Union
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078-7061
FAX: 405-744-8491
Phone: 405-744-6489

Announcing Two Hot New Classroom Resources on Agricultural Research

Help your kids bridge the gap between agriculture and everyday life by introducing them to the interesting—sometimes wacky—world of agricultural research. How? With the following new resources offered by the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Both help kids understand that science is not something far away in a laboratory; it's wired right into our daily lives—in the foods we eat, the clothes we wear, and the water we drink. AND...guess what? Science is FUN!

Sci4Kids

Sci4Kids, a World Wide Web site geared to children ages 8 to 13, presents a series of stories that let's kids take a peek behind the scenes to discover what ARS scientists do—some really neat stuff! Check out these super cool stories—

- Going Coo Coo for Chickens
- Bugs for Breakfast?
- Nightmare on Elm Street
- Using Satellites to Find Bees
- Fun Careers in a Small Town
- Plants Like Heavy Metal Too

Fun, right? Well, these are just a few of the stories. New ones are added regularly. And just wait until you see the photos, graphics, trivia, links to other scientific resources, and ideas for science fair projects! Students can also e-mail "Dr. Watts" with questions or comments about things they learn from the stories.

Older kids and adults—especially teachers—will love the site, too. Teachers, stay posted...the site will soon include a special section just for you! Check it out at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/>

Whiz Kid Activity Packet for Educators

From fries made of rice and an update on school lunch pizza to beans with wings used to treat acne, this teacher packet is just what the doctor ordered

for introducing agricultural research to students in middle school and early high school.

Packed with clever graphics and lots of fun, the three-hole-punched packet of reproducibles includes six self-scoring quizzes and two web site exercises. The activity that follows is just a sampling!

For single free copies, while supplies last, write AITC, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3435 South Bldg., Washington DC 20250-2251.

Sustainable Agriculture Explored in New PBS Series

Sustainable Agriculture is the theme of the third program in the new three-part PBS series, *Journey to Planet Earth*, premiering in April. *Land of Plenty, Land of Want* (April 20 at 10:00 - 11:00 p.m., ET/check local listings) visits diverse farming communities in Zimbabwe, France, the United States and China to examine the worldwide problems of feeding a growing population. Loss of land due to urbanization, weather phenomena like El Niño, and the misuse of chemicals and pesticides are just some of the problems farmers face. The first two programs in the series are *Rivers of Destiny* (April 6 at 10:00 p.m. ET) and *The Urban Explosion* (April 12 at 10:00 p.m. ET).

Free Educational Material Available from PBS Stations

A Middle School Teacher's Package consisting of a teacher's guide and video segments excerpted from each program is available at no charge to teachers. In addition, materials built around the topic of Sustainable Agriculture and designed for after-school programs are also available.

For more details on the education materials, visit the Journey to Planet Earth web site at <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/planetearth>. To order these materials, call your local PBS station or Michele Reap, South Carolina Educational Television, (803) 737-3394 or e-mail: mreap@scetv.org.

Understanding Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium in Our World



Three educational books for use in fourth through eighth grades are now available through the Potash & Phosphate Institute

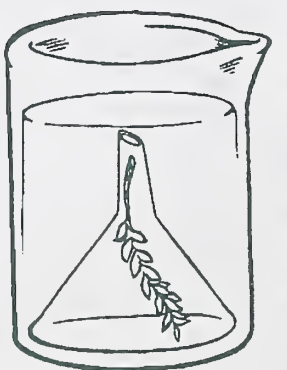
(PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). Each colorful 24-page book features either nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium; the major plant nutrients; and leads the reader on a journey to examine why the nutrient is so important. Human nutrition as it relates to plant nutrition, soil conservation, and science as part of modern agriculture are some of the principles taught in these books.

To order a book, just send \$1.50 plus shipping and handling (\$4.00 for 1-5 books), to:

Potash & Phosphate Institute
Circulation Department, PPI
655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110
Norcross, GA 30092-2843
Phone: (770) 825-8084
Fax: (770) 448-0439

Have You Thanked a Green Plant Today?

1. Fill the glass container about 2/3 full of the baking soda solution. This serves to provide carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.
2. Get a healthy shoot tip about 10 cm, long from the plant and place in the container with the baking soda solution. Make a fresh cut cross the lower end of the stem if it has not been recently cut from the plant.
3. Anchor the plant to the bottom of the container in an upside down position with the freshly cut stem pointing up and the tip of the leaves pointing down. A clear funnel works well. Place the inverted plant just inside the inverted funnel. Make sure the end of the stem is submerged at 2-3 cm below the surface of the solution.
4. Place the bright light near the plant and container. (The sun may be used in place of



- an artificial light source.) Wait five minutes. Bubbles should begin to appear from the cut end of the stem. If a plant does not begin to bubble, make a fresh cut across its stem end. Count the number of bubbles per minute for three one-minute intervals and record your data.
5. Now move the bright light away from the plant to about one meter distance. Wait five minutes and let the stem adjust. Count the bubbles per one minute and record your data. Repeat two more times. (If sunlight is the source of bright light used, then the plant should be placed one meter from the window.)
6. Turn off all lights in the room and close the blinds. Wait five minutes and let the system (plant) adjust. Count the number of bubbles per minute and record the data. Repeat two more times.
7. Discuss how water and carbon dioxide react in the presence of sunlight to produce sugar, oxygen and water. Oxygen is the end product of photosynthesis and is returned to the air.



AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN



Spaghetti, Twinkies, sourdough bread, puffed wheat, Oriental noodles, and concrete (yes, CONCRETE...) are just a few of many products made from wheat. Try your hand at the following grain game. How do you score?

Scoring

6-8 You're on a roll!

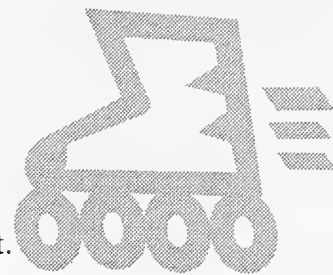
3-5 Pita good. Dough-not be discouraged.

0-2 Tough cookies. Take a peek on back...then try again!



FACT or FICTION ? ? ? ?

- _____ (1) Grains are fattening, so you shouldn't eat too much.
- _____ (2) Sourdough bread is made only in San Francisco.
- _____ (3) The United States produces much of the world's wheat.
- _____ (4) More foods are made with wheat than with any other cereal grain.
- _____ (5) One of wheat's worst enemies is rust.
- _____ (6) Though there are many different wheat varieties, their use is basically the same.
- _____ (7) Tomorrow, you may be skating on sidewalks made from wheat.
- _____ (8) Breeding is an important focus in wheat research.



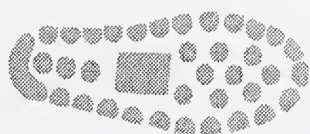
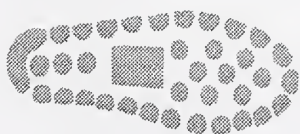
DID YOU KNOW?

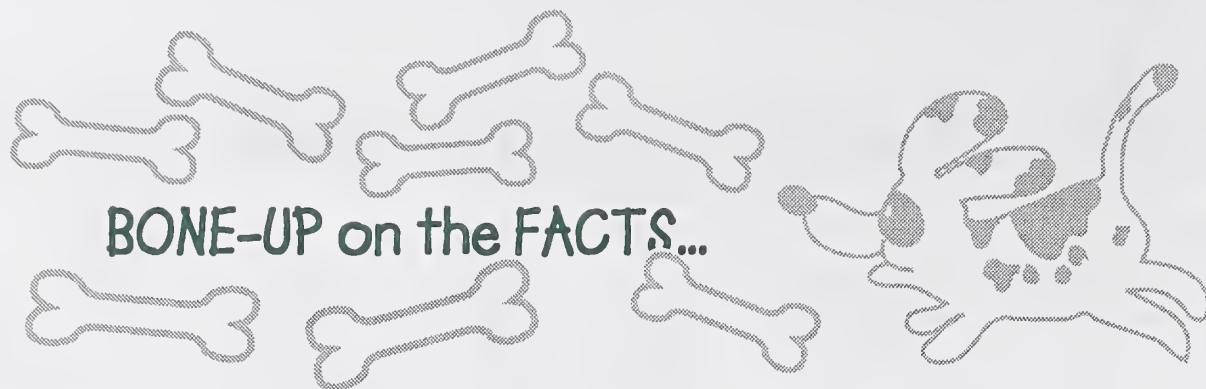
1 bushel of wheat = about 70 1 lb loaves



ONE STEP FURTHER...

You have been selected to plan a classroom program on grains at your local elementary school. Suggest three hands-on activities you could feature.





(1) **FICTION**

Most grain foods are low in fat—unless you add it (like butter on bread and fatty sauces on pasta). You need 6-11 servings from the grains group each day. In addition to bread and cereal, foods like pretzels, pancakes, spaghetti, popcorn, tortillas, and the crust on pizza count too.

(2) **FICTION**

For years, bakers in the San Francisco Bay area insisted that their sourdough bread couldn't be duplicated farther than 50 miles away. But back in the 1960's, ARS scientists identified the bacterium and yeast that work together to produce the sourdough flavor. Now you can get sourdough bread anywhere in the world!

(3) **FACT**

China and the European Union produce the most, but the United States offers a good share—about 60 to 70 million metric tons per year. North Dakota and Kansas harvest more than any other state.

(4) **FACT**

(5) **FACT**

Rust is a fungal disease that thrives best on wheat in the Pacific Northwest. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, stripe rust caused losses of over 70% of this area's wheat crop. Developing resistance to rust, as well as to other diseases and pests, is an ongoing ARS research activity.

(6) **FICTION**

There are several hundred wheat varieties produced in the United States—all categorized into six classes depending on whether the grain is hard or soft, the color of the kernel, and the time of planting. The hard wheats (hard red winter, hard red spring, and hard white wheat) are used mainly for yeast breads. Durum, the hardest wheat, is used for pasta products like macaroni and spaghetti.

The soft wheats (soft red winter and soft white wheat) are low in protein and are used for products like flat breads, cakes, pastries, and crackers. Some wheats have been developed to produce special flavors in products like tortillas and Oriental noodles.

(7) **FACT**

ARS is finding more and more ways to use wheat in food and nonfood products. Wheat-starch-based concrete is one of the newest. Potential uses include roofing tiles, insulation, flooring, soundproofing, insulated patios, AND sidewalks!

(8) **FACT**

ARS is continually breeding new wheat varieties to yield more nutritious flour and to fend off pests and diseases. Much of the wheat produced in the United States is from varieties bred by ARS and university cooperators.

CHECK IT OUT—

<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~wheaties/>

<http://www.pw.usda.gov/>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/jan97/> (See "From Bread to Blocks")

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/>

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/>

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

STATE CONTACTS

Each state, Washington D.C., and U.S. Territory has an Agriculture in the Classroom program. The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state.

Alabama

Ms. Jane Alice Lee
2101 Bell Road
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P: (334) 240-7125
F: (334) 240-7193
E: alagipub01@agri
ind.state.al.us

Ms. Amy Blecher
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Montgomery, AL 36109 0336
(numbers same as above)

Alaska

Ms. Vicki Naegele
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Delta Junction, AK 99737
P: 907-895-4012
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Call before faxing.

Arizona

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Arkansas

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Arkansas Farm Bureau
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ext. 2002
F: (402) 421-4432

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F: (603) 271-1109

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Ms. Joni Elliot
NJ Dept. of Agriculture
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F: (609) 292-3978

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<http://www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/education/Projects/AITC/index.htm>

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**See you in Oklahoma City,
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